



Army surplus AB-577 “Rocket Launcher” antenna mast – an amazing piece of kit!

The topic of my column this month started out to be just a little blurb to fill the illustrious pages of the Logger’s Bark, but after spending a couple of hours at the clubhouse last Sunday, I quickly elevated the idea to front and center.

In preparation for the upcoming [Field Day](#) event, Nick Winter, K7MO scheduled a training session for the ground crew team tasked with setting up antennas for the big event the last weekend of the month. In particular, this class was a full hands-on instructional session on how to deploy the amazing AB-577 “Rocket Launcher” antenna mast that will be used to support one of the beam antennas on Field Day.

Although I’ve been a very active ham for over 43 years (how did I get so old?!), this was my first time ever seeing an AB-577 be assembled. In fact, until Sunday, I’d never really heard of one before. Maybe in passing years ago but it was never a device to which I gave much thought if I had indeed heard it mentioned. But what an *astounding* piece of mechanical kit the famed “rocket launcher” is!

The AB-577 was developed during the early 1960s, and deployed in Vietnam, beginning in 1967, for use as a quickly-assembled portable field mast for military communications. I have been told by several hams, including Nick Winter, that the antennas originally affixed to the mast were large microwave arrays.

My first question on Sunday for Nick was why it has that nickname, rocket launcher. “Let me show you the manual and you’ll see exactly why”, Nick replied as he quickly retrieved the manual from the clubhouse and opened it to Figure 2-12 (the faded black and white photo below, along with the artists rendering graphic).

THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER



DAVE W7UUU

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It doesn't take a stretch of the imagination to picture the device being used to literally launch rockets!

The mast package consists of the vertical "launcher" device that raises 5.5' aluminum tubes one at a time into the air forming a tower, built one tube at a time, that would be 48 feet tall when completed. There are even internet sources claiming additional tubes could be added to bring it to 75 feet total although that might be pushing it. The tubes are stored in the long rectangular case seen in the old operation manual images.

The sheer engineering elegance is in the mechanism that allows one tube at a time to be inserted in the "elevator" (or launcher, if you will) then raised up using a crank winch mechanism, before being coupled onto the next pipe with a strong stainless-steel clamp. The crank is again operated, which in turn raises that tube up for the next to be attached, and so on – until all 48 feet of tower have been deployed.

Along the way, a clever system of guy lines is sequentially deployed. First at the elevator (launcher) base to hold it in place, then a set is attached in what will be the top of the tower, and once that is in the air, the last set is added to support the center.

It only took our crack team of eager ground crew helpers maybe an hour to get it fully in the air. Not bad, considering that most of the helpers had never worked with an AB-577 launcher in the past. Nick told us that a trained team of two servicemen would typically erect the mast, complete with the microwave array, in around 10-15 minutes. Disassembly runs about the same time. As seen on the ladder in one of the photos below, Joe Kubistek KG7ZYB (blue shirt and dark sunglasses) will be the AB-577 coordinator as appointed by Adam.

[Here's a link to a YouTube video](#) that shows a time-lapse view of an AB-577 being deployed by the Hollywood, MD Field Day team at last year's event. You can clearly see the whole process happen in mere moments.

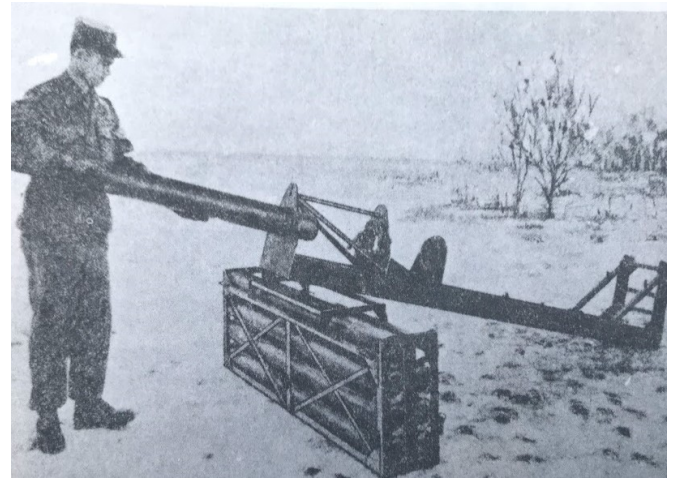
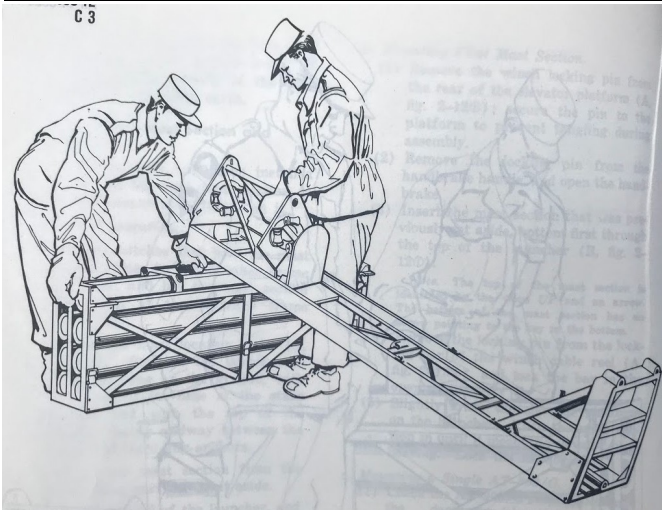
So come see this amazing machine in person at field day this year! If you would like to help participate in load-in and setup, just let Field Day Coordinator Adam Barbera, W2NCC, or any club officer know and we'll find a task that fits your schedule and your skills. Initial meetup is at the clubhouse beginning at 9:00 AM on Friday June 22nd.

A big thanks to Nick Winter K7MO for taking the time to run this class, and to all those who participated last Sunday. Another thanks to all who participated – Nick K7MO as our instructor, Adam W2NCC, our Field Day Coordinator and elevator mechanism operator, Lloyd AG7CX who was our primary "projectile tube loader" in the Launcher class, Doug K7FDR who handled the mating clamps from tube to tube, and the numerous others who came along to watch, learn, and assist in any way. I really learned a lot, as I think most in the group did as well.

See you at Field Day!

Dave
W7UUU

[See pictures below...](#)



Above L & R: Illustrations from AB-577 Mast Manual.



Clockwise from Left: Members of the antenna set up crew practice erecting the military surplus AB-577 portable mast in the club house parking lot in preparation for Field Day so all goes smoothly and safely.

Left: working with the extension tube mast head first tube.

Right: almost fully extended.

Lower left: Clamping another tube in place.

Bottom Right: Inserting another tube into base 'elevator' mechanism.



Amateur Radio Emergency Service



Greetings,

ARES contributes a series of articles about amateur radio, and emergency communications, and Pierce County District 5 ARES.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is an ARRL organization dedicated to supporting Amateur Radio Emergency Communications skills and preparedness

The Background...

Pierce County ARES District 5 manages ARES activity, training, exercises, and skill development. Pierce County ARES supports and meets at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center.

ARES recent activities:

Tacoma Marathon; on 29 April 2018 Pierce County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) Public Service volunteers reported to multiple stations to support the Tacoma Marathon race volunteers who provide water and support function stations along the race routes. Runners chose the Half-, the Full- or the Ultra-marathon, all of which began and ended at the new Point Ruston where the ASARCO copper smelter used to be. You'd never recognize it! Our report to Pierce County Department of Emergency Services shows 18 ham volunteers contributed 96 hours and 517 miles for this training exercise. While newly designated Public Service manager Kit Ellis, KC7KIT was officially in charge, there was no question that Rob Wiggins, K7KXO, with his many years of experience was responsible for the organization and execution of our contribution to the marathon. A new route and new marathon staff contributed to a feeling of "we'll figure this out". Rob was ably assisted at net control by Rich Heasty, KK7VH. Phil Pia, K7PIA, tactical call Shadow, ably shadowed the race director and relayed communications to and from the water stops THROUGH Net Control. Andrew Quamme, K7ASQ, tactical call Sweep, maintained his position behind the last runner, not as easy to define as I'd thought. The rest of our hams supported the water stops: Rob Allen, KG7JWD, Lyman Foulkes, K7LWF, Thomas Smith, N7CFI, Lorraine Nelson, K7LJN, and Stan Nelson, K7DKK, Dick Dodge, KI7FRC, Karl Johnson, K7KHJ, Chris Goodman, N5CNG, John Clarke, AC7WW, Whit Worcester, KG7LNZ, Jerry Suhrstedt, W7WAX, Dave Rait, KC7AF, and Gary Hunt, N7MJH.

If you haven't participated in a community service event, we certainly encourage you to do so. We plan to pair up inexperienced operators with experienced ones to make it a more comfortable. Great fun and useful experience, and good public exposure for PC ARES.

Kit Ellis — KC7KIT

Coming Events/Training

(Unless otherwise indicated location is Pierce County Emergency Operations Center)

21 June 2018: 7 pm—Thursday's regular membership meeting will include an ARES PIO orientation presentation, a Deployment Readiness workshop and the Player Briefing for the State Quarterly Emergency Communications Exercise scheduled for Saturday morning, June 30th.

30 June 2018: 9 am to Noon Saturday – Quarterly EmComm Statewide Exercise

ARES Meetings

ARES District 5 Meets Monthly on the Third Thursday at 7 pm. Pierce County Emergency Operations Center. Meetings always have a program, normally an EmComm Training Focus.

For information on the ARRL and Red Cross amateur radio operations last fall, see the following:
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/2017%20Hurricane%20Season%20AAR.pdf>

Pierce County District 5 Website <http://www.piercecountyares.net/web>

ARES Membership Application <http://www.piercecountyares.net/web/application>

ARES Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PierceCountyARES/files/>

ARES Information and Communications Plan frequencies:

For Team and EOC frequencies and other ARES activities at the W7DK.org Website, using the following link:
http://www.w7dk.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=46&Itemid=111

Larry Watson KD4VOM
Secretary Pierce County ARES
Kd4vom@mailcan.com

Field Day 2018 June 23—24

June is here and arguably Amateur Radio's most popular social event is too, FD (Field Day). This event is part of amateur Radios rich history dating back to the 1930's. The ARRL expects over 40,000 people from thousands of locations across the US to participate in the 2018 Field Day.



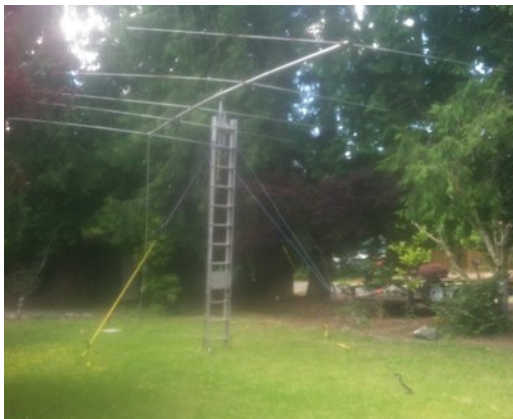
RCT will be returning to Western State Hospital in Lakewood for field day. See the clubs website for more details. The club will be on the air at starting 11am Sat. 23rd until 11am Sun. 24th of June. However, site setup begins on Friday morning. This is when much of the work gets done, setting up the site. We will be meeting at the clubhouse at 9am Friday morning to begin loading and transporting equipment.

The club will be putting up a new 30'x20' tent. This is a massive tent requiring 5 or more people to setup. The new tent will allow the club to run FD differently this year. In previous years stations were spread out all over the field day site. This year all stations will be grouped together in one place. There will also be a smaller 20x10 tent set-up nearby as a staging area for operators and a place to observe and socialize.

Field Day is an opportunity for the ham radio community to operate radio equipment setup in a temporary

environment under any conditions. We operate independent from other communications networks like the internet and cellphones.

This year the club will be setting up 5 HF stations and 7 HF antennas. We will be setting up 5 mono band antennas 2 x 20, 15, 10 and a 40 meter Wire yagi. Also, there will be an 80/15m fan dipole and a 160m dipole.



We will be setting up the 2 "rocket launchers" to deploy the 20 meter 3 element mono band antennas. This year we will be setting up 2 ladder antenna towers, one for the 10 meters mono band antenna (as seen in the picture) and one for 15 meters antenna.

This year we are going to be managing antenna resources differently. The 20meter CW antenna will be shared with the digital station. They will alternate using this antenna. Also when the 20 meter antenna is being use by digital the 40 meter station will be operating CW. The full antenna resource schedule will be published in the field day command pack.

mand pack.

This year's stations mangers the bands, modes and radios that will be available.

Station managers	Band	Mode	Radio
W7MKE - Mike	80/15/10M	Phone & CW	IC-7600
NG7G Warren	40M	Phone & CW	Flex
KR7W Rich and AC7QN Chuck	20M	20M CW	KX3
W7XTZ Mike	20M /160	20P/160 P,CW	IC-756 ProIII
N7OMS - Al and WE7P Bruce	All	Digital	Flex

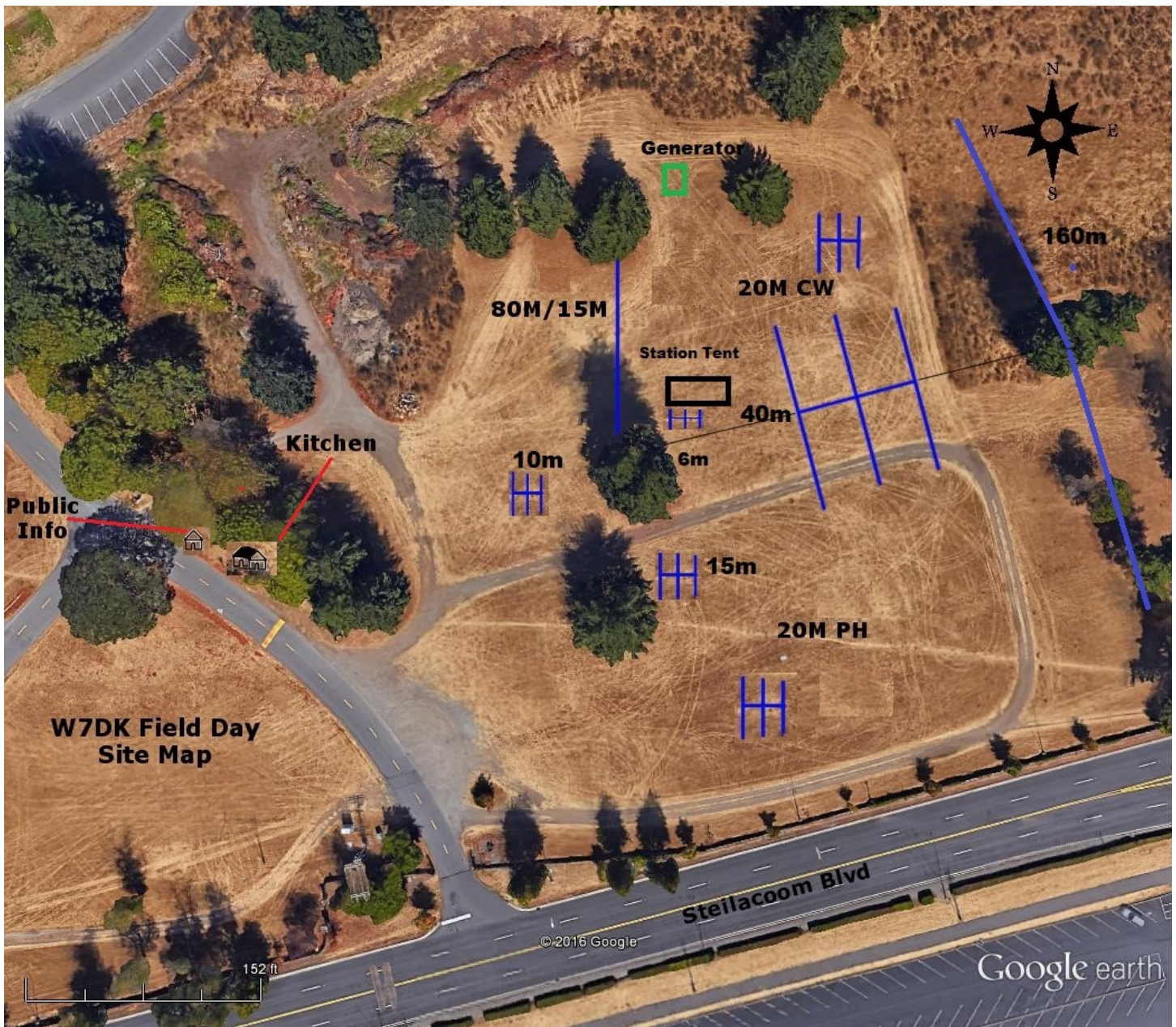
Again Chef Paul and Chef Jan will manage food services. There will be a dinner on Sat. at 6pm for club members, families and guests. The radio club will provide fried chicken, baby back ribs, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, cake and coffee will be provided. Folks will need to bring drinks of their choice. We will finish field day with the hardy Sunday morning Logger's Breakfast with eggs & omelets to order, waffles, sausage patties, hash browns, orange juice and coffee.

Field day is open to all club members and the public. You do not need to have a ham radio license to use the radios at FD. So, plan on stopping to visit with us and maybe get on the air.

Adam W2NCC

Field Day Marshal

FIELD DAY SITE MAP



DIRECTIONS;

From the north take the SR512 exit west to S. Tacoma Way. Turn right and proceed north on S. Tacoma Way to Steilacoom Blvd SW. Turn left on to Steilacoom Blvd SW and follow it west to 87th Ave. Directly ahead on your right will be the Field Day site. Enter the grounds at the first drive and follow the signs.

From the south take the Bridgeport Way SW exit and turn north on to Bridgeport Way SW. Follow Bridgeport Way north and west until it intersects with Steilacoom Blvd. SW. Keep left on Steilacoom Blvd. SW and follow it west to 87th Ave. Directly ahead on your right will be the Field Day site. Enter the grounds at the first drive and follow the signs. *See the Road Map below*

ARRL 2018 FIELD DAY

JUNE 23—24, Saturday & Sunday

Field Day is the premier celebration of Amateur Radio Operating of the year. It is a chance to practice emergency techniques and skills, participate in a contest like communication situation, and enjoy the out-of-doors with friends. The Radio Club of Tacoma will again set up for Field Day on the grounds of the Western State Hospital in Lakewood, WA.

9601 Steilacoom Blvd. SW

Lakewood, WA 98498

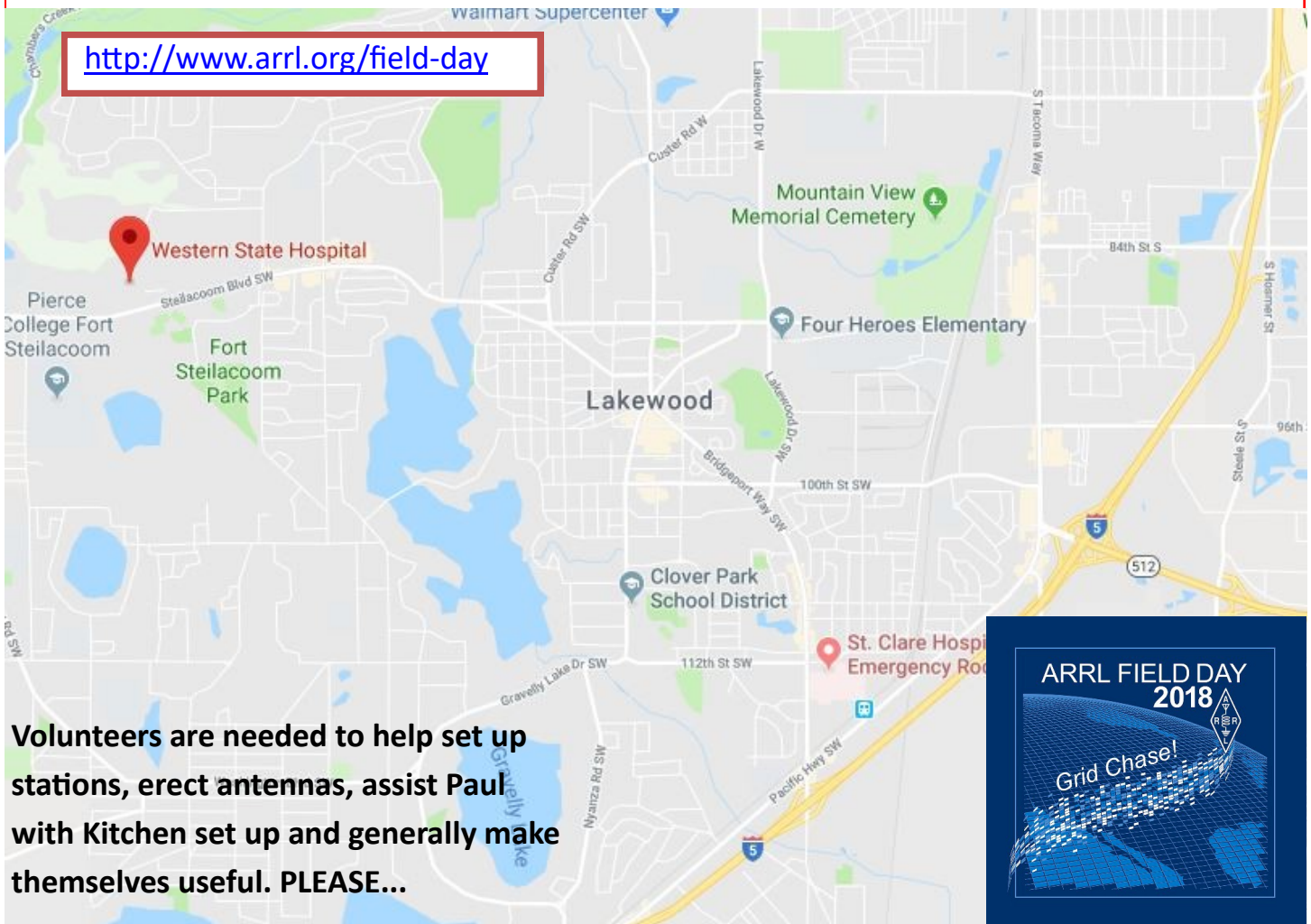
Operations are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC on Saturday 11:00 am to 5:00 PM

Setup—Friday 22nd, 9:00am loading at the Clubhouse and start at site at 11:00am

Operations—Saturday 23rd, 11:00am Start.—Dinner at 6:00pm (NOT POTLUCK THIS YEAR)

Wrap up — Sunday 24th, 11:00am End of Field Day. 1:00pm Breakdown and clear area

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>



Volunteers are needed to help set up stations, erect antennas, assist Paul with Kitchen set up and generally make themselves useful. PLEASE...

N3FJP Field Day tips by Scott N3FJP and Kimberly KA3SEQ Davis

The following information and web links may help you get prepared for FD and help you set up your logging software. Taken from an email I received as an owner of the software suit. I know a lot of you use this logging software so I thought it may be of assistance. Ed. PJH

"Hi All,

I hope that everyone is having a great spring! In just 17 days, ARRL Field Day will be in full swing! To help you get ready, here are a few thoughts and reminders...

Field Day Software Quick Start Video

To get new Field Day folks up to speed on the N3FJP Field Day software prior to Field Day, or if you need a quick review yourself, this video will have everyone ready to go when they arrive to your Field Day site. Please share this video with all who you think may attend! <https://youtu.be/DJEIXuoKWgc>

Please Find Your Password Now!

If you haven't already entered your registration information, please don't wait until the last minute to realize that you can't find your password (or register the Field Day software). If you can't find your password, Kimberly is happy to help, but the week leading up to Field Day gets crazy, so if you can't find yours, please e-mail us now.

Install the Field Day Software and Test Your Network in Advance!

If you haven't already installed **Field Day Contest Log 5.8** (released 3/14/2018), please do so now. You'll find it here (don't forget to uninstall the previous version first if you are upgrading): <http://www.n3fjp.com/fieldday.html>

If you plan to use a network for Field Day and haven't already done so, it's time to get all the PCs you'll be using together and make sure your network is all set. Complete details on networking my Field Day software using both File Share and TCP methods are here: <http://www.n3fjp.com/help/networkinghelp.html>

If you are running multiple stations but aren't networking, here is how to combine your log data after the contest: <http://www.n3fjp.com/faq.html#q65>

Please take a little time well before the contest, get your PCs together and your network up and running. As always, problems easily solved in a relaxed atmosphere can seem insurmountable when the clock is ticking!

Interface Your Digital Software

If you plan to operate any digital modes, please make sure that you've interfaced your digital software with my Field Day software, so that when you log the QSO in the digital software, it is immediately and automatically logged in the Field Day software. Quick setup details on interfacing my Field Day software with a number of digital programs are here: <http://www.n3fjp.com/help/digitalsetup.html>

Whether you are a contester or not, please get on the air and make some Field Day contacts! "

<http://www.n3fjp.com/>

RCT Hidden Transmitter Hunt Report

by Rich KR7W

In case you've not heard, The Radio Club's Spring Hidden Transmitter Hunt was held Sunday, May 20 at the encore venue of Fort Nisqually in Point Defiance Park, Tacoma. Hunters eagerly waited to hunt beginning at 10:30 AM– which was the time that the last transmitter was “On The Air” broadcasting it's annoying Bugs Bunny Cartoon message, “What's Up Doc– heh heh heh heh”.

The sign-in booth and equipment loaning Command Center was manned by club members Mike W7MWF, Bob K7MXE, and Red WB7EC. KR7W got there a bit early and went for a 2 hour walk in the woods and hid 4 transmitters (AKA Bunnies) – whose locations were progressively more difficult to find. The furthest Bunny was .47 Crow Fly Miles from the Command Center start location.

Sixteen hunters autographed the sign-in sheet. Noted new hunters included Andrew K7ASQ, Leslie K7LCL, John K7TES, and Eileen (Mrs. John) and grandson Glen Logan, and Warren NG7G. Also, this year, Red WB7EC hunted instead of manning the hunt Command Center.

It's hard to say who the fastest hunter was– as one third of the hunters did not write their name/call on the self score sheet– and at least three hunters didn't turn in a score sheet. Twelve out of 16 people did fill out and submit the (no name required) comment sheet to indicate that all participants had a good time and didn't think it was overly difficult but at the same time were challenged. All want to return for future hunts. The Bunny Hunt Committee plans to have a double secret probation meeting to select the 2018 overall winner. Thanks to the hunters who donated dollars to the bunny battery fund. Last years batteries are now paid for. The photos tell the rest of the story:



Here's Glen Logan, grandson of Eileen and John N7TES. John said that Glen got the hang of the equipment and had a good time. Photo by N7TES.



Left; Paul W7PFU and Mike W7MKE. Both are returning last year hunters. Paul found 3 and Mike found all 4 bunnies. It looked like both worked up a sweat.



Warren, NG7G (new hunter this year) was using an unusual Doppler antenna contraption kit from Ramsey Electronics (out of business years ago) that he won as a prize. I hung out with Warren for a while and am pretty sure that his rig is mis-calibrated by 180 degrees. Kudos to Warren for his attempt.



The flag for the What's Up Doc recorded message bunny. Bugs was hidden on top of a high stump located in the Rhody Garden where the Rhody lovers asked, "What the heck are you lookin' for? Bright Blinky LED eyes.



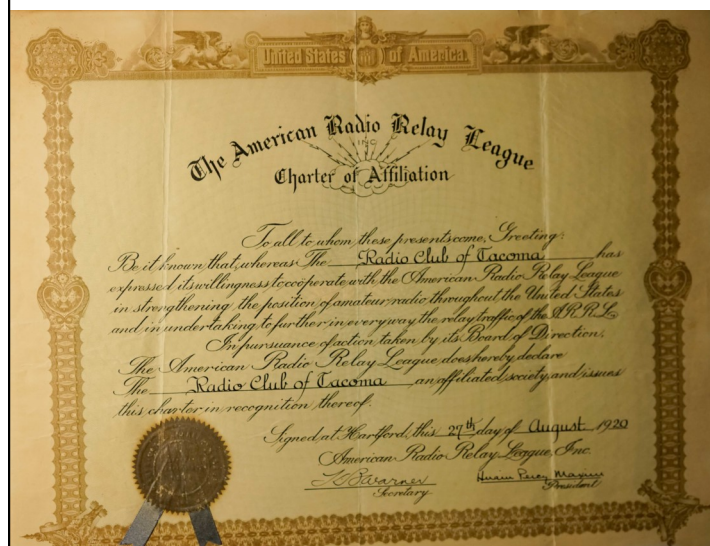
Andrew, K7ASQ, (new hunter this year) used borrowed equipment. When I encountered Andrew it seemed like he was following ole Bug's recorded message, "No No Not that way" and off the beaten path. Andrew did find all 4 bunnies in a respectable amount of time— and was the first hunter to find the most difficult bunny – Ole What's Up Doc – Bugs.

Mike, W7MWF, A returning bunny hunter with his homemade directional antenna looks pleased at finding another bunny transmitter. Why'd the ham cross the road? Who knows...



WB4SPB Photo

102 years and counting...



A WORD FROM THE ARRL . . .

By Joe Lester, K7ZG

The ARRL annual convention for the Northwestern Division was held at Seaside Oregon the first weekend in June. The audience included a number of our club members, several who were enrolled in the popular Friday antenna modelling workshop. Indoor events, seminars, flea market and vendor displays competed with sunny weather at the seashore for many attendees. At the ARRL Forum, we received an update on several important items including policies and practices regarding training for emergency communications, and the announcement to seek expanded HF privileges for Technician licenses. Our division director, Jim Pace K7CEX, spoke of his work on the ARRL Board and finance committee. Jim explained why he decided not to run for re-election when his term expires at the end of the year, and was applauded for his accomplishments. We're still in the pre-election season, but sources indicate that candidates for ARRL Northwestern Division Director are expected to include two experienced candidates AB7ZQ and W7VO (details on their personal websites or QRZ.com). ARRL members, stay tuned.



And there has been a surprising development concerning the Amateur Radio Parity Act, which was attached to a spending bill that cleared the House on May 23, 2018. You will recall this is the federal legislation that will require the FCC to publish new regulations essentially overruling any deed covenant prohibiting outdoor ham radio antennas. In the Senate, co-sponsor Wicker said it would suit him to follow this same approach and that enough has been done to address concerns of Senator Nelson of Florida. For more, see the "Politico Article" posted on the ARRL website on June 1. At the ARRL Forum, we learned that an effort may be underway to help write model rules for outdoor antennas in HOA communities. Regarding the ARRL's position favoring prompt passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act in its present form, ARRL general counsel Chris Imlay W3KD stressed that the Parity Act does entitle each and every Amateur Radio operator living in a deed restricted community to erect an effective outdoor antenna.

Don't miss the Radio Club of Tacoma's participation in ARRL Field Day June 23-24. This annual on-the-air operating event provides a great opportunity to engage with others interested in amateur radio and show off what we can do with several HF stations in a tent running on emergency power. We make a lot of contacts under the club call sign W7DK on various bands and modes with multiple radios and antennas.

Our club's affiliation with the ARRL extends back to 1920. In order to retain our status as an ARRL Special Service Club, we need at least 51% ARRL membership. If you'd like to join the ARRL, that would be great. You can do so online on the website arrl.org.



JULY BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE CHANGE

JULY 11, 2018 instead of JULY 4, 2018



PMT JULY, 2018 SPRING/SUMMER SALE LIST

	LISTED PRICE	SALE PRICE
1. ICOM HF XCVR IC-730 SN: 10603	\$200.00	
2. ICOM Power Supply IC-P515 SN: 23477		\$75.00
3. ICOM Microphone SM-8 SN: 13830	\$75.00	
4. VCI Vectronics Antenna Tuner VC-300DLP		\$75.00
5. AZDEN 6 mtr FM mobile PCS-7500H SN: C342146	\$75.00	
6. Kenwood CW crystal filter YG-455C-1 (500HZ)	\$75.00	
7. Dell TWR Computer (WIN 10) DC8M SN: hshZ781	test for club use	
8. HP computer monitor hstnd-2ao7 SN: CNc619Q2WS	test for club use	
9. Tekronix Oscilloscope 422 SN: 28075	\$50.00	
10. Tekronix Oscilloscope 547 SN: 6261/DOLLEY	\$50.00	
11. HP VHF Signal Gen 608E SN: 13322A0548/DOLLEY	\$50.00	



Item 1—3

This item consists of three parts; the HF Transceiver, the Power Supply and the Microphone. Can be sold as a lot (\$350.00) or separately, priced as listed. Manuals included.



Item 6

CW Filter for older Kenwood Radios. Will fit TS-830S that is still in club inventory.



Item 5

Azden is a nice 6 meter ZCVR with microphone, manual and box



Item 4

Nice VCI 'cross needle' Tuner. Very similar to MFJ units. Comes with documentation.

The PMT is always looking for quality donations. Consider donating your unused gear to the club's cause.

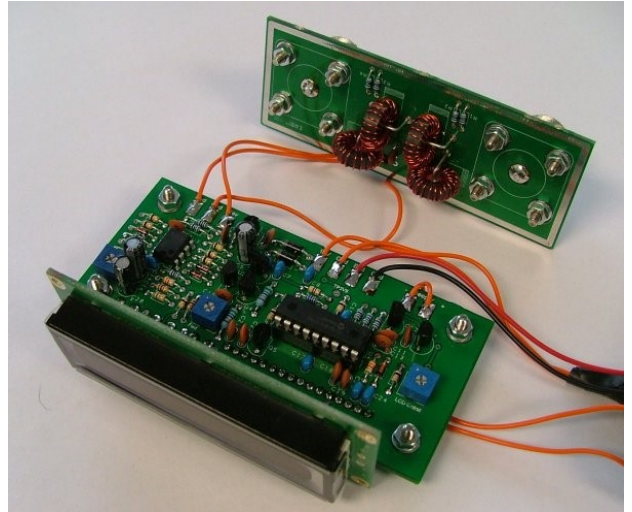
Gadget Showcase—Radio-Kits SWR and POWER Meter

An SWR/Power meter is an essential requirement for any ham shack. This is a design for a general-purpose instrument that will read SWR and power simultaneously. Being digital it is easy to incorporate several functions that are not only useful but in the case of the reverse power alarm could avoid an expensive repair bill.

For input power below about 20W the unit can be powered from a 9V type battery, when powered from 13.8V the unit will read beyond 140W. The meter is designed to read peak power.

Two backlit display options are offered; the first is yellow / green which has high contrast and has good viewing angles.

The other display has a blue backlight, the polarizing filter in the display is reversed so you get white (actually light blue) characters on a dark blue background. The blue backlit display is a little "slower" at changing than the yellow/green so is harder to read with fast changing data. Approx. US\$60.00 <http://www.radio-kits.co.uk/>



Features

- HF coverage - 1.8-30MHz
- Displays SWR, forward power, reverse power & supply voltage
- Peak reading power meter
- Bar graph or numerical format readings
- Reverse power alarm with adjustable threshold
- Auto turn on in presence of RF – sensitivity about 1 Watt
- Optional turn off after preset time – 10 to 240 seconds
- Backlit LCD display with variable brightness
- Reverse power polarity protection

An easy kit (4—6 hrs.) for the moderate beginner to build with all through hole parts. The most difficult task for the beginning builder will probably be the toroids in the power sampler circuit. I have built one of these and it is accurate within 0.2 wt. to 0.4 wt. as compared to several commercial meters.

Ed. pjh

Yurij Shevchenko of the Ukraine is producing some very well made quality paddles for the CW enthusiast who appreciates a beautiful 'tool' to send code. http://www.ur5cdx.com/extra_info_pages.php?pages_id=2



CT599MB, Solid Brass, w/5' cable \$139.00 US



CT73M, Solid Brass, w/5' cable \$139.00 US

SALMONCON XIII, 2018

July 14 and 15, 2018 at Valley Camp, in North Bend, WA

Free meals, beverages, and seminars plus a bunny hunt and activities for the kids

Tent & RV spaces and cabins are available at discounted fees

Call Tina and make your reservations NOW.

Watch your BARK for more details as they are firmed up.

Or go to the Pacific Northwest QRP group site for current information

<https://sites.google.com/site/pnwqrpgroup/salmoncon>

CPR-AED CLASS IS A SUCCESS by P. J. Hicks N7PH



Pat Rapoza, instructor

About 10 RCT members gathered at the clubhouse on Sunday morning, May 27, 2018 to get or update training in CPR and to learn how to use the club's new Automated External Defibrillator (AED). This and other First Aid essentials will soon be installed in a highly visible and accessible **First Aid** cabinet in the clubhouse.

Through the efforts of Bob Heselberg K7MXE, a Tacoma Fire Department Training Officer, Mr. Pat Rapoza, came to the clubhouse and gave a detailed presentation that lasted almost 4 hours. This clubhouse visit was exceptional since in most cases trainees must come to Tacoma Fire. Thanks Bob for making these arrangements.

Everyone got to practice their technique on the rescue dummy using CPR and using the AED. The information was presented in a spirited and humorous interactive manner that kept everyone's

attention. The time flew by. I found it very informa-

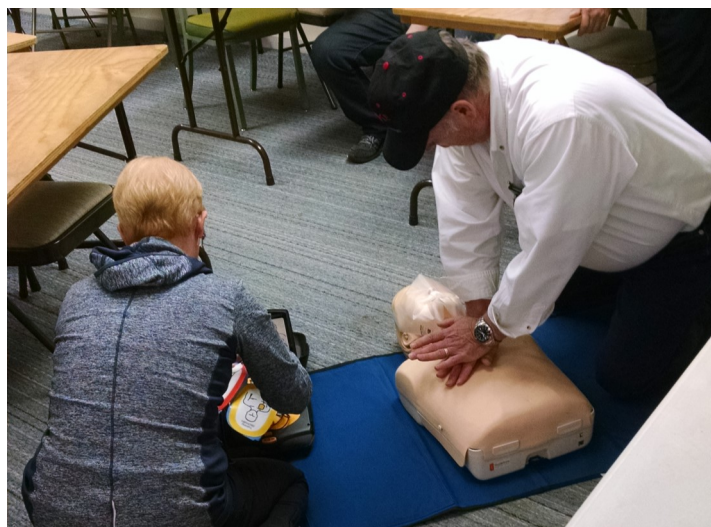
tive as the "new" techniques are much different from my past training. I would recommend this training if you are not up to date or have never had it. It may save the life of someone close to you. Most incidents happen around the home.



Harry N7DOE and Bob K7MXE giving breaths to the dummy under the watchful eye of instructor Rapoza

Mike W7MKE giving compressions while Leslie N7LCL readies the AED for defibrillation.

The class listens and watches attentively.



Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

K0NR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio? (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)

NOSSC's Millennials are killing ham radio (<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)

PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio? (<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)

NZ0T's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio? (<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, K0NR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? I've written about that topic, too (<https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/>).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post (<https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html>), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 – Damaging to Amateur Radio?" (<https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/>) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, NOSSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, is critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes,

"A hackathon isn't a coding competition. It's explained well in this Medium article (<https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601>). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders...anyone with an interest in **solving a problem with technology.**"

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn't just millennials we're talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don't think it's my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don't even know if that's really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the

ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

This and That

SeaPac 2018

It was great to see a sizable W7DK delegation at SeaPac 2018 in Seaside OR. June 1-3. Over the 3 days I saw Joe Lester, K7ZG; Joe Winkler, KF7PXB; Joe Kubistek, KG7ZYB; John Sherrill, N7TES; Jim Hansen, with new call AG7LO; Walt Morey WA7SDY helping out with SeaPac security; Phil Pia, K7PIA; Tom Lesick, W7TJL; Adam Barbera, W2NCC; Paul Matney, W7PFU. Also rumored to be there (I did not see them personally) were Doug Oakman, AD7AV and Harry Wong, N7DOE. Did I miss any one? Please let me know. (P.S. At the club house last Saturday Harry also claimed he and Doug were there but they didn't see me).

Friday's Antenna Modeling Workshop turned out, for me, to be quite a surprise to have the EZNEC creator, Roy Lewallen, W7EL, conducting the one day seminar. Roy was an engineer at Tektronix in Beaverton OR before changing his career to antenna modeling and consulting. Using the free version of EZNEC 6.0 many who brought their laptops, including me, were able to get started with some of the basic models.

At the Saturday Banquet, we were treated to "Our Future Begins Here", the key note address by Steve Hicks, N5AC, with his observations of Ham Radio yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Steve is the VP of Engineering at Flex Radio. Steve shared his observations of the Ham Radio growth rate over the years, with changes in policy, like no-code licensing, and projections for Ham Radio in the future. As prices come down for the very sophisticated integrated circuit Software Defined Radio chips, we will likely see Ham Radio move to newer technology not yet imagined.

With 41 Seminars to choose from, the Flea Market, and many equipment manufactures and vendors, I, for one, was quite busy. A Fun Time.

Repeaters in Western Washington

Are you new to Ham Radio and curious about all the repeaters in Western Washington? Check this out from the Western Washington Repeater Association (WWARA). This is a list of all the coordinated repeaters in Western Washington. <https://www.wwara.org/WWARA-rptrlist.pdf>

Correction: I overlooked Andy Leneweaver, KG7QVP as having been with the W7DK group at the Communication Academy back in April. Sorry Andy, I appreciate you letting me know.

That's This and That for now.

Hope you found this helpful. Topic Suggestions & Feedback Welcome.

73's, Steve AF7YD

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1900 PDT by President Dave W7UUU.

Officers and Directors Present

President Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Paul Matney W7PFU
Board Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? Yes. There were 15 names on the sign in sheet, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Silent Key or Illness Peter AD7EU has some upcoming medical treatments. Well wishes extended.

Approval of Minutes April 4, 2018 Board Meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

Secretary's Report Secretary Mike W7MWF reported that the usual correspondence had been received.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Steve AF7YD provided a Treasurer's report.

Committee / Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE advised that membership stands at 259 with 2 applications pending processing. He also queried whether it would be appropriate to send invites to new licensees to attend the Field Day. The consensus was that it was a good idea and to also encourage them to attend the 4th Wednesday workshop.

Training -Tech License Training June 9/10
-VE Testing May 8
- General Class license training underway April 6 through June 18, 2018

Info Tech Randy WB4SPB advised that the IT infrastructure is functioning normally.

HF Operations Phil K7PIA reported installation of new audio equipment for the Flex. He also reported the Henry amplifier was unsuitable and that a Drake L4B is being tested. A whiteboard has been acquired and is in use in the HF room. Phil and Al N7OMS reported on the participation in the Rookie Roundup, and provided overview and status of the operations for the upcoming Seventh Area QSO Party.

Repeater Ops Red WB7EC reported that the 145.21 Bates Repeater was not working well and that Tim K7TMW had been advised.

Facilities Mgmt (WE7P) Garage rehab status still work in progress

-Alarm situation/neighbor complaints were reviewed. Solutions were suggested and will be implemented

-AED – Bob K7MXE provided an instruction video for the newly acquired AED device. He also reported on a suggested purchase of a cabinet for emergency supplies and equipment. Possible locations for the Safety Center were discussed and it was determined that the most suitable location would be surface mount on the wall by the door between the Lou Room and the classroom where the PMT bulletin board is currently placed. It was moved and seconded to authorize Bob to purchase a cabinet from EBay for \$119. Motion carried. It was also moved and seconded to reimburse Bob \$890 for the purchase of the AED unit. Motion carried.

Property Mgmt Red WB7EC reported receipts of \$60 from the April raffle and \$94 from the April mini-swap meet. Red also requested authorization to dispose of surplus property previously identified to the Board. Approval was granted by voice vote. A copy of the list of surplus property is filed with these minutes.

Museum Ongoing work on BC348, continued organization of museum property.

Weds Workshop Presentation Topic will be Field Day overview and operational instruction/training on techniques and logging.

General Meeting Presentation Topic TBA

Unfinished Business

Upstairs electric panel rehab update – Al N7OMS advised that wire run measurements have been done and further work will be performed as time and logistics permit

Mike W7MWF reminded the Board that it has been two years since the tower inspection has been completed and a year and a half since the report and action plan was presented to the Board. None of the recommendations have yet been implemented. The issue was tabled until the June meeting and Mike will invite Nick K7MO to the June BOD meeting to provide input.

New Business

-Recovery and disposition of 70 feet Rohn 25 tower stored at Larry KD4VOM QTH. History of the tower was discussed and the issue was tabled until a later meeting.

-Appoint additional member to serve on a committee in instances where a committee has only 1 participant. Co-chairmanships of committees was briefly discussed and Dave W7UUU requested further discussion be tabled until the July meeting.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

Hidden Transmitter Hunt – Ft. Nisqually May 20th

May 5th Seventh Area QSO Contest 0600-2400

Adam W2NCC Field Day Planning updates – Soliciting volunteers for Rocket Launcher setup training/

teams

Reminder General Meeting will be held Saturday May 5 1:00 PM at the Eagles Club

Adjournment was at 2008 PDT.

Respectfully submitted
Mike W7MWF
RCT Secretary.

Always nice to be recognized. Congratulations to all 'Hams' out there.



Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1330 PDT by President Dave W7UUU at **the Eagles Aerie #3 Hall**
Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance led by visitor Ken KI7VEU

Health and Welfare

Silent Keys and Illness None Reported

Welcome and Self-Introductions

Guests present were Chris AA7KL, John KG7IRP and Ken KI7VEU

New Calls None reported

Self-introductions were completed. There were 36 names on the sign-in roster, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Anne N7ANN provided the meeting refreshments. Thanks Anne.

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual Correspondence received. Utility bills, periodicals, renewals and new memberships.

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD reported everything is FB in the treasury department.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership	Membership report by George K7GRS is 261 active memberships
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Training	-Tech License Training June 9/10 -VE Testing May 8 - General Class license training underway April 6 through June 18, 2018
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VE Report	John AC7WW gave the report. The next VE Session will be held May 8
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HF Operations	Phil K7PIA gave the HF Station Ops report. 7QP is underway, a white-board has been installed, and the audio peripherals for the Flex have been upgraded.
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Repeater Ops	It was reported that the 145.21 Bates repeater less than optimal. Tim K7TMW has been notified
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IT Report On behalf of Randy WB4SPB, Mike W7MWF reported that all IT components functioning within normal and expected parameters.

Museum Mike W7MWF reported that restoration is ongoing on a vintage BC348.

Facilities Mgmt

Garage door installation is ongoing and hindered by weather and logistics. The Tree in NW corner will be pruned when a crew can be assembled.

AED unit has been purchased. At the BOD meeting installation of a Safety Center were discussed and it was determined that the most suitable location would be surface mount on the wall by the door between the Lou Room and the classroom where the PMT bulletin board is currently placed. Bob K7MXE filled the group in on upcoming training sessions to be developed and sponsored with help from the Tacoma Fire Department.

Prop Mgmt Red WB7EC provided sales reports and donation status. Upcoming surplus items for sale have been approved by BOD and will soon be published. On the 1st Saturday of each month, raffle tickets will be available at the clubhouse giving those who will not attend the general meeting a chance to participate.

4th Weds Activity Night - Presentation Topic will be Field Day overview and operational instruction/training on techniques and logging.

New Business No new business presented or discussed.

Unfinished Business and Announcements

Upcoming Hidden Transmitter Hunt – Sunday May 20, 2018 Fort Nisqually Shelter Area, Pt. Defiance Park

7QP Ongoing until midnight tonight, the Seventh Area QSO Party @ the clubhouse.

Adam W2NCC Field Day updates; looking for volunteers for Rocket Launcher training and teams.

Program The program for this meeting was a video presentation: *A short intro to Digital Modes, and how we got the amazing new mode called FT8 - one of the most popular modes in amateur radio history.* The presenter is Dave Casler KE0OG, who has produced a huge number of features for YouTube.

Tuning and Traffic Dave showed QSL cards received by W7MWF from the two developers of FT8 (Steve K9AN and Joe K1JT)

Door Prize A soldering kit donated by Mike W7XTZ was won by Red WB7EC

Raffle Prize A handheld transceiver was won by Dana K17ILX

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 1435

Respectfully submitted
Mike W7MWF
RCT Secretary

THE CLUB LINEUP

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Finnie, W7MWF - w7mwf@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

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LOGGER'S BARK STAFF

Editor: P. J. Hicks, N7PH

Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma and others

Send articles to: hickspj467@comcast.net, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98111

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www.w7dk.org.

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MEMBERSHIP INFO: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$35 per calendar year. \$30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1500 ft. ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3